



KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
Lawrence A. Stelma – Sheriff

701 Ball Avenue, N.E. • Grand Rapids • Michigan • 49503



PRESS CONFERENCE
Wednesday, December 10, 2014 – 2pm
Kent County Sheriff Department – Firearm Range

The Kent County Sheriff Department is proud to announce a new addition to their K9 team, K9 Sabre. K9 Sabre is a 2-year old German Shepard from the Netherlands. He joined the Kent County Sheriff Department in July 2014.

K9 Sabre's handler is Deputy Dan Alderink, an 18-year veteran who has worked as a County Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer. In 2004, he was assigned as a Detective with the Kent Area Narcotics Enforcement Team and, in March 2006, became a K9 handler specializing in narcotics with K9 Joe. In January 2014, K9 Joe transitioned from a single purpose (narcotics) to a dual purpose Patrol K9 (narcotics and tracking) and Deputy Alderink and K9 Joe were reassigned to the Road Patrol. Shortly after certifying in tracking, K9 Joe tracked a bank robber to his house, resulting in an apprehension by detectives and the suspect confessing to the robbery.

K9 Sabre was purchased due to the anticipated retirement of K9 Joe in December 2014. K9 Sabre and Deputy Alderink, attended a five-week tracking and narcotics K9 academy through Vigilant Canine Services Inc. held at the Kent County Sheriff's Honor Camp. K9 Sabre will be utilized as a Patrol and Narcotics canine trained in tracking and narcotics detection.

Sabre is named in honor of a Lansing Police Department (LPD) K9 that was killed in the line of duty on Saturday, January 23, 1999. The LPD K9, named Sabre, was handled by LPD (ret.) Officer Matt Ramsey. Sabre was shot and killed while attempting to take down an armed suspect following a foot pursuit. The suspect had broken into an occupied residence while attempting to flee officers. As entry was made into the home, the suspect opened fire. Sabre immediately attacked the suspect as officers returned fire. Both K9 Sabre and the suspect were fatally wounded.

Kent County Sheriff Department is proud to honor fallen Lansing Police Department K9 Sabre with his name selected for our new patrol dog.

Please join us during our introduction of K9 Sabre to the community on:

DATE: Wednesday, December 10, 2014

TIME: 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Kent County Sheriff Department – Firearm Range – 701 Ball Avenue, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Retired Officer Matt Ramsey and representatives from the Lansing Police Department, will be our special guests.